

Introduction: WHY THE BOOK AND THE LETTERS

Revelation 1

I. **Why** John wrote this letter

Either during reign of Nero, in mid 60s (before 70 AD), or Domitian, end of 1st century
Persecution is heating up, as well as two other pressures upon the Church that will continue until His Return:

- A. _____ persecution
- B. _____ deception
- C. _____ of the world
Sexual immorality
Materialism

These are pictured in Revelation as:

- A. Beast from the Sea: _____ Persecution
- B. Beast from the Land _____ Deception
- C. Harlot of Babylon _____ Seduction

In such a situation, Jesus wants to strip away all deceptions, show you Reality, and encourage you with the Final Outcome.

Why this book is called "Revelation" (1:1)

II. It is the Revelation of _____ (1:1)

From Him – and **about** Him

- A. From Him: He is speaking. Particularly chs 2-3
- B. About Him: 1:5-8; 12-18; entire book

III. It is a revelation **to the Church**

- A. To His servants: 1:1
- B. To the 7 churches of Asia Minor named in 1:11

Particular personal messages to each of them in chs 2-3

We would have Him address individual Christians. But He addresses the churches corporately. → Q: What church are you **part of**?

Also these are churches of cities: why One Voice is so important

Note v19-20:

The 7 Stars = 7 angels/messengers, or pastors?

The 7 Lampstands = 7 churches (lights to their communities)

Do you ever think of CPC as one of God's lights to Howard Co.?

The letters from Jesus to His churches in chs 2-3 follow a sevenfold pattern (**7 Cs**):

1. Church named
2. Characteristics of the One speaking with authority
3. Commendations to the church for encouragement
4. Criticisms that call for repentance
5. Counsel on what to do
6. Consequences promised to the Overcomers (and/or to Disobedient)
7. Call to Heed!

We do well to pray this week to have ears to **hear** and **obey** (1:3) what Jesus has to say to Columbia Presbyterian in the weeks ahead before we move into the next major stage of ministry.